



Additional chart coverage may be found in CATP2, Catalog of Nautical Charts.

## SECTOR 5 — CHART INFORMATION

## SECTOR 5

### LITTLE MINCH TO THE MINCH

**Plan.**—This sector describes Little Minch and The Minch together with the adjacent coast of Skye, mainland of Scotland and E coasts of Harris and Lewis. The sequence of description is from S to N.

#### General Remarks

**5.1 Little Minch** (57°40'N., 6°40'W.), with an average width of 12 miles, is the narrowest part of the navigable waterway leading between the Outer and Inner Hebrides and mainland of Scotland. Oceangoing ships can proceed through Little Minch and The Minch on recommended tracks laid out on the chart. The terrain covered in this sector is generally similar to that described in Sector 4. Rugged coastlines backed by high hills and fronted by rocky foreshores are prevalent. Lochs and inlets indent the coast between blunt, salient points leading to small, local harbors and anchorages. Stornoway is the principal harbor. Depths are variable. There is a least depth of 32.9m on the charted track, with depths of 18 to 27m in the near vicinity. The latter depth is found 1.5 miles NW of Rubha Hunish (57°42'N., 6°21'W.). Numerous detached banks, with least depths of 25.6m, lie adjacent to the track. Principal dangers include islets and rocks on detached banks lying about 3 miles off the NW end of Skye and N of the track in 57°43'N., 6°25'W.

**Caution.**—Concentrations of fishing vessels may be encountered from June to December in the waters described in this sector.

Except due to stress of weather or any other case of force majeure, all laden tankers exceeding 10,000 grt should not pass through The Minches. Other vessels should contact Coast Guard Stornoway on VHF channel 16 at least 1 hour prior to ETA, using the format of the English Channel and Dover Strait Movement Reporting System (MAREP). See Pub. 140, Sailing Directions (Planning Guide) North Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, North Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

#### Neist Point to Waternish Point

**5.2 Neist Point** (Ness Point)(57°25'N., 6°47'W.), a low, finger-like projection extending off the W end of Skye, is backed about 0.2 mile inland by a steep, peaked hill. A light is shown from a tower, standing on rising ground close within the end of the point.

The NW coast of Skye is rocky, rugged, composed of cliffs that are steep-to in places and backed by high hills. Eddies occur close inshore along the NW coast of Skye. When the SW current prevails off the NW coast of Skye, it meets the current setting NW along the SW coast of Skye and both are deflected W. At other tidal stages the NW current rounds Neist Point and sets NE.

**An Ceannaich** (57°27'N., 6°47'W.), a prominent, black, rocky head rises steeply 2 miles N of Neist Point. The Merchant, a detached rock column, rises close off the headland.



*Inset photo courtesy of Scottish Radiance*

NEIST POINT LIGHT FROM NE

**5.3 Loch Pooltiel** (57°28'N., 6°45'W.) indents the coast between An Ceannaich and the SW side of Dunvegan Peninsula, about 1.5 miles NE. The loch, completely open to the NW, extends 1.5 miles SE to its head and the settlement of Glendale. There are depths of 7.3 to 12.8m in the loch, which is steep-to NE, but partly foul along its SW side. A conspicuous schoolhouse stands 0.5 mile within the head of the loch. Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 12.8m, good holding ground, throughout the loch.

**Loch Dunvegan** (57°30'N., 6°40'W.) is entered between Dunvegan Head (57°31'N., 6°43'W.) and Ardmore Point (57°33'N., 6°39'W.). Dunvegan Head is a steep-to prominent landmark. The NW side of the head is a vertical cliff broken by a spur sloping down to another steep headland located 1 mile SW of the head. A rugged promontory located 0.5 mile within the entrance divides the loch into two arms. The NE arm, clear in its approaches from Ardmore Point, has depths of 13 to 42m in its inner part, known as **Loch Bay** (57°30'N., 6°35'W.). The outer part of the principal loch is wide, deep and danger-free for 4.2 miles, then islets and rocky shoals prevail.

**Healabhal Mhore** (57°24'N., 6°38'W.), a flat-topped eminence, is a conspicuous landmark. Uiginish Point (57°27'N., 6°36'W.) is marked by a light.

**Groban na Sgeire** (57°30'N., 6°38'W.) is the NW point of the promontory separating Loch Dunvegan and Loch Bay. Rubha Maol (57°30'N., 6°36'W.) is the NE point. Between the two points the coast is indented to form Lovaig Bay (57°30'N., 6°37'W.) which is backed by high hills and sheer cliffs.

**Sgeir nam Biast** (57°31'N., 6°37'W.), above and below-water rocks and reefs, lie in the N approach to the bay. Mingay and Isay (57°31'N., 6°39'W.) are two islands lying close together and 0.5 mile N of Groban nan Sgeire.

**5.4 Ardmore Point** (57°33'N., 6°39'W.) is the S extremity of Ardmore Peninsula (57°33'N., 6°39'W.), an elbow projection of Waternish Peninsula (57°33'N., 6°35'W.). The W side of Ardmore Peninsula is formed by high cliffs sloping E to a low point, on which stands Ardmore House. The coast from Ardmore Peninsula to Loch Bay is formed by high, steep cliffs. The flood current divides at Ardmore Point, setting NNE and S.

**Stein** (57°31'N., 6°34'W.) is a village near the head of Loch Bay.

**Dunvegan** (57°26'N., 6°35'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32970](#)), a village situated almost 1 mile SE of Uiginish Point, has a 20m long wharf with depths of 3 to 3.4m alongside. The pier was reportedly in the process of being rebuilt in 1992. Dunvegan Castle (57°27'N., 6°35'W.), a massive structure with lichen-covered walls, stands 0.5 mile N of the village. Anchorage, sheltered from N winds, can be taken in a depth of 11m, with Ardmore House bearing 278° and Dunvegan Head bearing not less than 231°. Anchorage can also be taken in a depth of 26m, good holding ground, between Sgeir nam Biast and the S end of Mingay. There is anchorage available E of Isay and throughout Loch Bay. Southeast and E winds raise a sea in the area. Lovaig Bay has good anchorage in depths of up to 20m. Small vessels can anchor in depths of up to 13m, mud, in the loch SW of Uiginish Point and in a depth of 8.7m in the channel with the flagstaff of the castle bearing 030°.

## Waternish Point to Rubha Hunish

**5.5 Waternish Point** (Waternish Point) (57°37'N., 6°38'W.) rising in a cliff, is the N extremity of Waternish Peninsula, a rugged, uncultivated, high promontory. A light is shown from a tower on the point. The coast from Ardmore Peninsula consists of steep, inaccessible cliffs with several conspicuous ruins standing in places above the cliffs.

The ebb current setting S from Waternish Point forms an eddy which sets E to Ardmore Peninsula and then turns N and S along the coast. The eddy raises a choppy sea at times W of Waternish Point which is fringed for 0.1 mile by foul ground.

Anchorage sheltered from SW gales can be taken in a depth of 30m, with Waternish Point Light bearing 279° and Caisteal an Fhithich bearing 156°.

**Caution.**—Submarine cables extend NW and SW from the W side of Waternish Peninsula and may best be seen on the chart.

**5.6 Loch Snizort** (57°34'N., 6°28'W.), a large, deep-water inlet, is entered between Waternish Point and Dun Liath (57°39'N., 6°25'W.). The loch is free of dangers for about 7 miles, except for the Ascrib Islands. A church and farm buildings are landmarks SE of Dun Liath. Tidal currents are weak throughout the loch.

The SW shore of Loch Snizort is formed of high, steep cliffs, unindented except for Aros Bay (57°33'N., 6°33'W.), an open bight providing temporary shelter from SW gales. Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 31m in the middle of the bay.

**Dun Liath** (57°39'N., 6°25'W.), the prominent summit of the E entrance point of Loch Snizort, has a cliff formation on its N face which slopes gradually SW to the loch. There is a fort, in ruins, on the W slope. The E shore of the loch is low, with cultivated farmland sloping inshore to hills in the background. A conspicuous rock column and hill stands 0.7 mile N of Ru Idrigill (57°35'N., 6°24'W.).

**Uig Bay** (57°35'N., 6°23'W.) is entered between Ru Idrigill and Ru Chorachan (57°34'N., 6°23'W.). The former point rises in a steep slope to a stratified cliff, topped by a high mound. From a least depth of 46m in the entrance, depths decrease to a drying spit extending 0.1 mile off the NW side of the bay, which is otherwise free of dangers. Landmarks include a church with a prominent spire standing 1.5 miles NE of Ru Chorachan, and a hotel close S of the church.

**5.7 Uig** (57°35'N., 6°21'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32950](#)), a village, is located SE of the head of the bay. King Edward Pier extends about 300m offshore from a position 0.6 mile E of Ru Idrigill. There is a berth at the head of the pier with a length of 42m and a depth of 3.5m alongside. A ro-ro berth on the E side of the pier has a length of 65m and a depth of 5.5m alongside. A light is shown from the head of King Edward Pier.

Vessels carrying dangerous cargo should contact the harbor master 24 hours in advance of their ETA.

Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 7.8m, mud, about 0.1 mile E of the pierhead. Additional anchorage in depths up to 11m, mud, can be taken about 0.3 mile S and SSW of the pierhead. The anchorages are approached by passing 0.2 mile S



of Ru Idrigill and steering 041° for a church at the head of the bay.

**Loch Snizort Beag** (57°31'N., 6°22'W.), providing excellent shelter, is entered E of Lyndale Point (57°32'N., 6°24'W.), a steep-to shelf of low rock at the end of a high promontory which divides the loch from Loch Greshornish. Loch Snizort Beag is deep, with few dangers in the fairway. There is an occasional below-water rock lying as far as 0.1 mile off the shores of the loch which is bold and steep-to along its SW side, whereas the NE side is cultivated and sloping. The head of the loch is filled by drying flats. There are two villages, Skeabost (57°27'N., 6°19'W.) and Bernisdale (57°28'N., 6°20'W.), the former at the head of the loch. Anchorage can be taken in suitable depths, good holding ground, in Loch Snizort Beag, and also between Dun Liath and Uig Bay.

**5.8 Loch Greshornish** (57°31'N., 6°25'W.) is entered E of a promontory and Greshornish Point (57°31'N., 6°26'W.), and 0.5 mile SW of Lyndale Point. The promontory is hilly and faced by steep cliffs on its W side. Lyndale House, conspicuous, stands in a grove on the E side of the loch. Eilean Beag and Eilean Mor (57°32'N., 6°25'W.) are two islets lying in the loch entrance. Rocks and reefs lie as far as 0.1 mile SW and W of the islets.

Vessels approaching Loch Greshornish steer for Lynndale House on a bearing of 138°, which leads midway between Greshornish Point and Eilean Mor. When Scart Rock comes in range 10° with Dun Skudiburgh, astern, alter course and proceed up the loch on a midchannel course to where it is the narrowest. A tangent of 18° on the W shore of the loch and the W side of Eilean Mor leads W of the foul tongue extending from the E side of the loch, and vessels steer with this tangent astern until clear of that danger.

**Clinigin Rocks** (57°31'N., 6°26'W.), consisting of several drying heads, lie off Greshornish Point. The SE extremity of

Eilean Beag, bearing 066° and open NW of Eilean More, leads NW of the foul ground fringing the point. Dun Skudiburgh, bearing 014°, leads W of Scart Rock (57°31'N., 6°25'W.) and other rocks nearby. The channel between Lyndale Point and the islets is deep and clear of dangers.

The fairway through Loch Greshornish has a least depth of 9.1m as far as Crachan Rock (57°29'N., 6°26'W.). Anchorage can be taken in depths of 7 to 27m throughout the loch.

**Ascrib Islands** (57°35'N., 6°31'W.), a group of uninhabited islets, rocks and reefs, lie near the entrance of Loch Snizort. South Ascrib is the largest and S islet. Mariners without local knowledge should keep clear of the group and the bank extending N, where there are depths of 20m or less. Anchorage can be taken about 0.5 mile NNE of the N point of Eilean Iosal (57°36'N., 6°32'E.), in a depth of 22m, good holding ground in mud and sand, however, the islands are low and afford little protection from the wind.

**Camas Mor** (57°39'N., 6°25'W.), a small open bight, is entered between Dun Liath and Ru Bornesketaig (57°40'N., 6°25'W.), a high point about 1 mile NNE. A pier at the head of the bight leads to a road through a populated countryside. Tidal currents set NE and SW along this NW coast of Skye. Eddies prevail inshore and in the bights. Anchorage can be taken in Camas Mor in depths of 9 to 13m.

**Lub Score** (57°40'N., 6°22'W.), a large, open bay indents the coast as far as Ru Meanish (57°41'N., 6°21'W.), a salient point. Anchorage can be taken in suitable depths throughout the bay.

**5.9 Duntulm Bay**, a continuation N of Lub Score, extends as far as Rubha Voreven (57°42'N., 6°21'W.). Eilean Tulum (57°41'N., 6°21'W.), high and narrow, extends across the entrance of the bay. Above and below-water reefs extend N and S of the islet. The preferred channel into the bay leads at least 100m S of the islet, with the entrance marked by the ruins of Duntulm Castle. Anchorage, sheltered from S and W gales, can be taken leeward of Eilean Tulum.



RUBHA REIDH LIGHT

*Main photo courtesy of George Gilmour*

**Rubha Hunish** (57°42'N., 6°21'W.), the point of an elbow promontory located at the N end of Skye, has vertical cliffs forming its N and NE sides and is steep-to except off the W side. The SW tidal current sets closely around the point.

**Eilean Trodday** (57°44'N., 6°18'W.), a high, rocky island is fringed by foul ground for 0.3 mile, but the channel between the island and Rubha na h-Aiseig (57°42'N., 6°18'W.) is deep and free of dangers. The island is marked by a light shown at its summit.

The N limit of Little Minch is considered to extend N between Rubha na h-Aiseig, Shiant Islands, and Lewis. The N track through Little Minch lies 0.8 mile N of Eilean Trodday. A group of islets, rocks and reefs lies NW of Rubha Hunish. There is a least depth of 18m near the N track between Rubha Hunish and Gearran Islet (57°44'N., 6°25'W.).

Currents between the various islets and rocks are variable. Detailed information on tides and tidal currents is shown on charts of the area. Gearran Islet and Am Bord, an islet close E, consist of black, sheer cliffs, with foul ground extending N from them as far as Fladda-chuain (57°45'N., 6°26'W.), the largest of several islets. A landing can be made on the NE side of the latter islet.

**5.10 Sgeir nam Maol** (57°45'N., 6°23'W.) are two patches of drying rock. The SE patch dries 3.8m and the other, 0.1 mile NW, dries 4.2m. A beacon stands on the S end of the SE patch. The passage between the rocks is foul. The rocks are steep-to on their N and E sides, but a bank with depths of less than 5m extends 0.4 mile WSW and 0.6 mile SE from the beacon.

**Comet Rock** (57°45'N., 6°23'W.), with a depth of 0.6m, lies on a bank 0.3 mile SSE of Sgeir nam Maol beacon, with a drying patch of rock between. A lighted buoy is moored about 1.2 miles E of Comet Rock.

**Sgeir Graidach** (57°47'N., 6°28'W.), a drying rock, lies on the N end of a narrow, rocky bank with a least depth of 3.6m. A beacon marks Sgeir Graidach. Eugenie Rock lies 0.3 mile SE of Sgeir Graidach.

**East Bank** (57°47'N., 6°31'W.) is narrow and grassy with a least depth of 14.4m. Tidal currents setting E and W around Sgeir Graidach raise turbulent rips and eddies.

## Rubha Reidh to Greenstone Point

**5.11 Rubha Reidh** (57°52'N., 5°49'W.) is the NW point of a prominent headland rising to a flat eminence about 2 miles SE. Cliffs form much of the headland. A light is shown from a tower standing on the point, and a conspicuous radio mast stands 1.5 miles SE of it.

Two open and foul bights indent the coast between Rubha Reidh and Stac Ruadh (57°32'N., 5°43'W.). The inshore waters E of Stac Ruadh are foul and fronted by Eilean Furadh Mor (57°52'N., 5°43'W.), a grassy islet encircled by reefs. Tidal currents are negligible off this coast.

**Loch Ewe** (57°48'N., 5°37'W.) is entered between Rubha nan Sasan (57°52'N., 5°41'W.), a rocky, red-colored and steep-to point, and **Ploc an t-Slagain** (57°53'N., 5°49'W.), a steep headland. The loch, trending about 6.5 miles SSE to its head, is backed generally by low cliffs.

**Isle of Ewe** (57°50'N., 5°37'W.) occupies the central part of the loch. Ploc an t-Slagain and a similar headland about 0.5 mile N, frame a hollow which is conspicuous from NW.

**Mellangaun** (57°50'N., 5°41'W.), a promontory, rises to two steep, prominent summits about 0.2 mile apart, the N of which is marked by a pillar.

Depths in the loch will accommodate ships of deep-draft. There is a least depth of 25.6m in the fairway W of Isle of Ewe and 10.1m in The Sound, a fairway E of the isle. There are depths of 9 to 18m in the entrance leading to the drying head of the loch.

**Sron nan Oban** (57°51'N., 5°41'W.) is the N of several promontories which are located on the W side of Loch Ewe. The open bights between promontories are foul with shoals extending at least 0.5 mile offshore.

**5.12 Rubh a' Choin** (57°51'N., 5°38'W.), a rocky point on the E shore of Loch Ewe, is fronted by an islet lying on foul ground extending at least 0.3 mile S and SE. The coast in the area is cliffy and fringed by above and below-water rocks and reefs. There is a boat pier and slipway in the cove E of Rubh a' Choin.

**Sgeir an Araig** (57°51'N., 5°39'W.), two rocky islets connected by a drying reef, lies in the loch fairway. The N islet has two peaks, with a cleft between. The S islet is a low, flat rock.

**Gob na Lice** (57°51'N., 5°38'W.) and Gualann Mhor (57°49'N., 5°36'W.) are the N and SE extremities of Isle of Ewe. A large farm building is conspicuous about 0.2 mile N of Gualann Mhor. The entire Isle of Ewe (57°50'N., 5°37'W.) is fringed by rocky, foul ground.

**The Sound** (57°51'N., 5°37'W.) is a secondary channel with a least depth of 10m in the fairway. In the S part depths of 6.3m lie adjacent to the fairway. The Sound can be entered from the NW or SE. Gob na Lice, aligned 305° astern, with Sgeir Maol Mhorruidh Shuas (57°52'N., 5°41'W.), leads through the deepest and most constricted part of the channel. Mooring buoys are laid in The Sound.

Aird Point, a salient feature, is backed by cultivated land and dwellings extending along the shores. Three concrete dolphins in a depth of 6.1m, are situated 0.3 mile NNW of Aird Point. There is a pier extending SE from Aird Point, with a depth of 1.8m alongside its head.

**5.13 NATO Jetty** (57°50'N., 5°35'W.), an L-shaped pier, extends almost 183m offshore. The pierhead is 60m long with a least depth of 10.3m alongside. Dolphins lie close N and S of the jetty; lights are shown from the outermost dolphins and from the N end of the jetty head.

**Rubha Thurnaig** (57°48'N., 5°36'W.) marks the entrance of Loch Thurnaig (57°47'N., 5°35'W.), an unimportant bight. The coast approaching the loch is bold, rocky and steep-to. Two steel pontoons are moored near the 20m depth contour in the SW corner of the loch. Orange floats mark the below-water obstruction near the pontoons.

**Resolution Rock** (57°48'N., 5°38'W.), with a least depth of 7.5m lies close to the fairway of Loch Ewe. The conspicuous whitewashed hotel at Poolewe (57°46'N., 5°36'W.), a village at the drying head of the loch, bearing 151°, leads SW of the rock.

Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 22m, good holding ground, on the NE side of The Sound, clear of the mooring buoys. The holding ground extending 1.5 miles S of Aird Point is unreliable. Anchorage in a depth of 20m can be taken with the N end of Am Fiaclachan (57°47'N., 5°37'W.) bearing 090°, however, the holding ground is unreliable and marine farms are moored up to 0.3 mile off the SW shore. Small vessels can anchor on the mud flats near the head of the loch.

## Greenstone Point to Cailleach Head

**5.14 Greenstone Point** (57°55'N., 5°37'W.), the low, flat extremity at the N end of a promontory separating Loch Ewe from Gruinard Bay, is marked close E by an iron pole standing on a large square stone.

**Gruinard Bay** (57°54'N., 5°30'W.), an open bight affording unsuitable anchorage, is entered between Rubha Beag (57°55'N., 5°34'W.) and Stattic Point (57°54'N., 5°25'W.). The bay is deep and free of dangers. Gruinard Island (57°53'N., 5°28'W.), on which landing is prohibited, is reef-fringed and rises to a high, grassy dune marked by a cairn.

**Little Loch Broom** (57°54'N., 5°22'W.) is a constricted, deepwater inlet with very few dangers. Heavy squalls occur within the loch when SW winds sweep through a valley between the mountains. About 1 mile S of Cailleach Head (57°56'N., 5°24'W.) is a point rising steeply to a hill and 0.5 mile farther E is a low, conspicuous wall fronted by a shingle beach. Terrain along the SW side of the loch rises to a high ridge and mountain. Numerous cottages are visible along both shores of the loch.

**Ardross Rock** (57°55'N., 5°25'W.), with a least depth of 0.6m, lies in the entrance fairway of Little Loch Broom. Vessels enter the loch N of the rock. Tidal currents are weak in the loch and its entrance. Anchorage can be taken about 0.4 mile off Rireavach (57°54'N., 5°20'W.), a village, in depths of 27 to 33m.

## Loch Broom—Summer Isles

**5.15 Loch Broom** (57°54'N., 5°12'W.) has its principal approach between Cailleach Head (57°56'N., 5°24'W.) and Priest Island (57°57'N., 5°31'W.). Cailleach Head is bold and rugged with a high, rocky cliff facing seaward and steep, earthen banks S. A light is shown from a tower on the head.

Priest Island appears bold when seen from the N, but smooth-topped, with two summits near its E end when viewed from S.

Smaller vessels approaching Loch Broom from the N utilize Dorney Sound (58°02'N., 5°27'W.), the channel N of Tanera Mor (58°01'N., 5°24'W.) and the bay E of this island. Depths in both approaches are sufficient for seagoing ships. The N approach is more constricted.

**Glas-leac Beag** (57°59'N., 5°30'W.) is a conspicuous islet on a clear day, due to the green grass covering it. Landmarks include Meall an Fheadain (58°03'N., 5°24'W.), a high, steep hill and Ben Mor Coigach (57°59'N., 5°13'W.), a sharp mountainous ridge, rising prominently on the mainland on approaching Loch Broom.

**Eilean Mullagrach** (58°03'N., 5°28'W.), the N islet on approaching Loch Broom, has a flat summit at each end. The islet is fringed on its SW and W sides by drying rocks which include a large square rock, which dries 3.4m, lying 0.1 mile offshore.

**Na Finlaichean** (57°58'N., 5°27'W.), a group of bold and rocky islets with steep cliffs on their N and W sides, lie in the approach close S of above and below-water rocks. Carn Iar is the N and highest of these islets.

**Carn Skerries** (57°58'N., 5°22'W.), a group of grass-covered islets and rocks, lies 2.2 miles E of Na Finlaichean.

**5.16 Carn Dearg** (57°56'N., 5°22'W.), is a rugged promontory with several summits. The promontory, with steep, rocky sides, forms the N end of a low peninsula which rises 4 miles ESE to Beinn Ghobhlach (57°54'N., 5°17'W.). The approach channel to Loch Broom, N of Carn Dearg, is 0.5 mile wide.

**Annat Bay** (57°55'N., 5°19'W.), a broad, open bight, is bold and steep-to E and SE and affords temporary anchorage off the W shore in depths of 13 to 31m.

**Dorney Sound** (58°02'N., 5°27'W.) and Badentarbat Bay (58°01'N., 5°23'W.), at the E end of the sound, form a secondary approach channel to Loch Broom. Depths are ample over a channel width of 0.5 mile for seagoing vessels, however, there are detached above and below-water shoals. Local knowledge is required.

**Rubha Dunan** (58°00'N., 5°21'W.), steep-to and faced with low, red cliffs, projects from the mainland at the SE side of the bay. There is a pier about 30m long with a depth of 3m alongside at the N side of the bay. A bay indenting the E side of Tanera Mor, the island forming the W side of Badentarbat Bay, affords sheltered anchorage in depths of up to 26m in the S part of the bay with a large house at the head bearing 238°. Local craft can anchor in a depth of 7.3m, within two islets lying close off the S end of Tanera Mor.

**5.17 Rubha Dubh Ard** (57°59'N., 5°19'W.), a bold, cliffy point ending in a low cliff and Carn Dearg, a promontory previously described, mark the inner approach to Loch Broom. The shores are high, steep-to, and cliffy. Fairways leading to the loch entrance have a least depth of 23.5m, and are clear of dangers.

**Isle Martin** (57°57'N., 5°13'W.) lies 0.8 mile N of the NE entrance point of Loch Broom. The isle is high, barren, and reddish-colored with steep-to rocky cliffs along the N and W sides.

**Martin Bank** (57°57'N., 5°16'W.) extends WNW from Isle Martin.

**Cadail Bank** (57°56'N., 5°15'W.), with a least depth of 16m, lies close N of the entrance fairway to Loch Broom.

**Loch Kanaird** (57°57'N., 5°12'W.) is almost landlocked between the E side of Isle Martin and the mainland. A rocky spit partly closes the S entrance of the loch. The N and central parts of the loch are deep while the E part is shallow. Anchorage can be taken in depths of 5.5 to 9.1m on the shoals at the E side of the loch, and also in depths of up to 18m off the E side of Isle Martin.

**Caution.**—Submarine cables are laid between Isle Martin and Aird na h-Eighe, close N of the bar in Loch Kanaird.

**5.18 Loch Broom**, entered between **Rubha Cadail** (57°55'N., 5°13'W.) and **Rubha Camas a Mhaoraich** (57°55'N., 5°14'W.), is clear of dangers in the fairway, but is subject to squalls from the surrounding barren mountains. There is a least charted depth of 23.5m lying 0.4 mile W of **Ullapool Point** (57°54'N., 5°10'W.), with lesser depths to Corry Point (57°53'N., 5°07'W.) where the loch has a least width of 0.2 mile between the 10m curves.

Although tidal currents are minimal, it is recommended that ships with a draft greater than 8m enter the loch at half flood. Shoals fringe both sides of the loch. At Ullapool Point an extensive drying flat of sand, shells and stones formed by the river outflow constricts the channel. There is a conspicuous white building standing almost 0.8 mile NW of Corry Point and a bridge spanning a ravine 0.7 mile E of Ullapool Point.

**5.19 Ullapool** (57°54'N., 5°09'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32820](#)), a village located within the point, stands on a flat projecting terrace. The houses of the town are visible from seaward. Tides rise about 5.2m at springs and 3.9m at neaps.

A pier projects SSE and there is a total of 400m of quayage. The longest berth is 80m with depths of 3.5 to 9.4m alongside. Vessels of up to 90m in length can be accommodated. There is a ro-ro ferry terminal 78m long with depths of 5.8 to 8.8m alongside. Fish processing vessels and small cruise liners periodically use the port. A lighted beacon is shown from Ullapool Point.

Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 29.3m, sand and stones, between the narrows at Ullapool and Corry Points. There is anchorage on good holding ground near the head of the loch in depths of 22 to 27m, clear of the marine farms moored along the SW shore of the loch. Small vessels can anchor in a cove on the SW side of Corry Point narrows where there are depths of 5.5m.

**Summer Isles** (58°03'N., 5°28'W.), a group of islets and rocks, lie in the N approach to Loch Broom. Glas-leac Mor (58°02'N., 5°28'W.) is the steep-to outermost islet of the group. There are numerous rocks, above water, lying between Glas-leac Beag (57°59'N., 5°30'W.) and Tanera Mor (58°01'N., 5°25'W.). Dorney Sound leads between the group.

## Rubha Coigeach to Rubha Rodha

**5.20 Rubha Coigeach** (58°06'N., 5°26'W.), a rocky coastal point, is the N end of a long, flat promontory. Loch an Alltain Duibh (58°03'N., 5°26'W.), indenting the promontory, is 11m deep, but open to the elements affording little shelter. The coast N of the loch is low and fronted by rocks and foul ground for 0.3 mile offshore.

**Enard Bay** (58°06'N., 5°21'W.), open NW, is entered between Rubha Coigeach and Kirkaig Point (58°08'N., 5°18'W.). The bay is deep, but seldom visited except for local craft. The shores of the bay are reef-fringed and fronted by islets.

**A' Chleit** (58°08'N., 5°21'W.), the outermost, high islet rises vertically. A rock, below-water, lying 0.4 mile N of A' Chleit breaks during N gales.

**Loch Inver** (58°09'N., 5°16'W.) is entered between Kirkaig Point and Rubha Rodha (58°09'N., 5°18'W.). Tidal currents setting N and S along the E side of North Minch have no effect

on currents in Enard Bay or Loch Inver where currents are negligible.

**A' Chleit** and **Soyea Island** (58°09'N., 5°19'W.) break during W gales. Soyea Island, steep-to on its S side, shows two hillocks at each end on a N approach. A light is shown from the W end of the island. North and S entrance channels lead into Loch Inver.

**5.21 Bo Caolas** (58°09'N., 5°18'W.), marked by a beacon, is a drying rock in the N channel. There are several other rocky shoals in the channel which limit its use to vessels with a draft of 4.6m. The S channel is deep and free of dangers.

Loch Inver, open to W winds, has rocky shores backed by mountains and fronted by reef flats extending as far as 0.1 mile offshore. Depths decrease gradually from 46m in the entrance to 11m off Aird Ghlas (58°09'N., 5°15'W.), a salient promontory. Several shallow and foul bays indent the S side of the loch. The N end of foul ground, off Aird Ghlas, is marked by a lighted beacon.

Landmarks in approaching Loch Inver include Suilven (58°07'N., 5°08'W.), a conspicuous mountain with a sharp peak; Culag Hotel (58°09'N., 5°15'W.), fronted by a mound, and Lochinver Church, about 0.2 mile NE of the hotel, visible from offshore.

**Glas Leac** (58°09'N., 5°16'W.), an islet marked by a light, lies in the fairway. Foul ground and drying rocks on rocky shoals encumber the area between islet and the N shore.

**5.22 Lochinver** (58°09'N., 5°14'W.) is a village at the head of the loch. Finger Pier, which extends 130m NNW from the coast midway between the breakwater and Culag Pier, 0.2 mile E, provides berths on either side of the pier. The largest berth has a length of 90m and an alongside depth of 7m. A light is shown from the head of the pier. There is another pier, with berths on both sides, and a 200m long quay.

The approach lies S of A' Chleit, Soyea Island and Glas Leac. Vessels exceeding 50m in length and vessels carrying dangerous cargo should give the harbormaster at least 24 hours notice of ETA.

Anchorage can be taken in depths of 7 to 9m, mud, with Lochinver Church bearing 067° and Culag Hotel flagstaff bearing 117°; however, this anchorage is exposed to W gales. There is anchorage in suitable depths between Glas Leac and the head of the loch.

## Loch Inver to Loch a' Chairn Bhain

**5.23 Loch Roe** (58°10'N., 5°18'W.), entered N of Rubha Rodha, is a tortuous, narrow inlet encumbered with foul ground and drying rocks. The loch is frequented only by fishing vessels.

**Claus Deas** (58°14'N., 5°24'W.) is the W extremity of a bold headland whose N extremity is Point of Stoer. The coast from Loch Roe is featureless.

**Point of Stoer** (58°16'N., 5°22'W.), high and rugged, appears to be an island when seen from offshore. Cliffs form the NW face of the point and an unusual, detached column, Old Man of Stoer, rises at the NE end. A light is shown from a white tower standing near Claus Deas.





*Photo courtesy of Scottish Radiance*  
POINT OF STOER LIGHT

**Eddrachillis Bay** (58°18'N., 5°17'W.) is a large, open bay entered between Point of Stoer and Handa Island (58°23'N., 5°11'W.). The shores of the bay are rough, rocky, and indented by several small bays. Numerous islets lie as far as 1.8 miles off the S and E shores. Steep, grassy slopes back the shores. Depths in the fairway of the bay are ample for seagoing ships of deep draft.

**Oldany Island** (58°15'N., 5°15'W.) lies close offshore and at the E end of a large, open bay. From the S end of the island the coast recedes E to Rubha nam Fias (58°16'N., 5°07'W.), the S entrance point of Loch a' Chairn Bhain. The intervening coast is broken by two inlets. Loch Dhrombaig (58°15'N., 5°12'W.), the W inlet, is fronted by several islets. Entrance is effected by a NE approach, passing close W of drying Bogout Rock and close NW of the islets. Anchorage can be taken SW of the islets in depths of up to 13m.

**5.24 Loch Nedd** (58°15'N., 5°10'W.) is entered between Rubh' Dhubhard (58°15'N., 5°11'W.) and Rubha na Maoile (58°16'N., 5°10'W.), the outer extremity of a promontory forming the NE side of the loch. The channel leading midway through the loch has a least depth of 8.7m as far as the anchorage. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 12m about 0.5 mile within the entrance of the loch. A 4.6m shoal on the W side of the fairway should be avoided.

**Loch a' Chairn Bhain** (58°15'N., 5°04'W.) is entered between Rubha nam Fias (58°16'N., 5°06'W.), the SE entrance point, and Duartmore Point (58°17'N., 5°06'W.). Stack of Glencoul, a mountain located 7 miles ESE of the loch entrance, is conspicuous from seaward, as is grassy Eilean a' Ghamhna (58°15'N., 5°03'W.).

The fairway is deep and free of dangers as far as Caolas Cumhann (58°15'N., 5°02'W.), the narrows, which leads to the entrance of Loch Glencoul and Loch Glendhu. There is a depth of 13.7m at the E end of the fairway, where it joins the lochs.

The NW side of the narrows is formed by Garbh Eilean (58°15'N., 5°02'W.), an islet joined to the mainland by a drying reef. A 3.7m shoal lies close S of the SW end of Garbh Eilean. Tidal currents may attain a velocity of 2.5 knots at springs in Caolas Cumhann, where there are dangerous eddies. A ferry plies the E end of the narrows.

Kylesku Bridge crosses Caolas Cumhann between Garbh Eilean and the mainland shore SE. The navigable span is 80m wide with a vertical clearance of 24m.

An overhead power cable with a vertical clearance of 24m crosses the narrows 100m NE of the bridge. Submarine cables cross the NE end of the narrows, their landing places marked by beacons.

Lochs Glencoul and Glendhu, the S and N arms of Loch a' Chairn Bhain, are separated by high land terminating in Aird da Loch (58°15'N., 5°00'W.). Loch Glencoul (58°14'N., 4°58'W.), at least 21.9m deep in the fairway, has a bold and steep-to N shore. Loch Glendhu (58°15'N., 4°58'W.), at least 11m deep in the fairway, is danger-free but subject to heavy squalls during S and SW gales.

Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 13m, good holding ground, S of Eilean a' Ghamhna and during daylight hours about 0.2 mile ESE of the E end of Garbh Eilean, with a house bearing 326°. Vessels can anchor in a depth of 15m, close E of the islets extending ENE of Garbh Eilean, with the E islet bearing 160°.

## Loch a' Chairn Bhain to Sound of Handa

**5.25** Between **Duartmore Point** (58°17'N., 5°06'W.) and **Farhead Point** (58°19'N., 5°10'W.), the coast is heavily indented and fronted by rocky shoals, foul ground and islets as far as 2.5 miles offshore. The entire E and NE shores of Eddrachillis Bay are very rocky, backed by either heather-covered or barren slopes interspersed by the grassy tops of cliffs.

**Calbha Mor** (58°17'N., 5°08'W.) and **Calbha Beag** (58°17'N., 5°09'W.), adjacent islands, are separated by a channel with a depth of 11m in the fairway. Foul ground fringes both islands. A shoal with a depth of 4.6m lies in the S entrance of the above channel, about 150m SW of Calbha Mor.

**Ravens Rock** (58°16'N., 5°09'W.) and **Lachen Shoal** (58°16'N., 5°10'W.), above and below-water dangers, lie N of the entrance fairway to Loch a' Chairn Bhain. The N end of Oldany Island, bearing 265° leads S of these dangers.

**Bagh Chalbha** (58°17'N., 5°08'W.) is formed by the N and E sides of Calbha Mor and the mainland. A drying rock lies on the shoals fringing the E side of Calbha Mor.

**5.26 Badcall Islands** (58°18'N., 5°10'W.) consist of an inner and outer group of grassy islands, with the former extending 1.5 miles SW from the entrance to Badcall Bay. The latter group, lying 0.8 mile SW of the inner group, consists of Meall Mor (58°18'N., 5°12'W.), Meall Beag (58°17'N., 5°12'W.), and Sgeir a' Chlaidheimh. Rocky shoals fringe all the islands and constrict the passages between them.

**Rubha Gisgil** (58°19'N., 5°09'W.) is a mainland point located at the inner end of the Badcall Islands and at the SE entrance of Badcall Bay. A chain of islets, islands and rocks extends WSW from the point terminating in Dubh Sgeir (58°18'N., 5°11'W.). Eilean Bhreitheimh (58°18'N., 5°11'W.) is a grassy island lying close NW of Dubh Sgeir. An approach channel to Badcall Bay is entered N of the island and S of Eilean Garbh (58°19'N., 5°10'W.).

**Badcall Bay** (58°19'N., 5°09'W.), entered between Rubha Gisgil and Farhead Point (58°19'N., 5°10'W.), is fringed by



rocks and shoals with depths of less than 3.7m which constrict the channel to about 0.1 mile. Main Channel, leading to the bay, is entered S of Meall Earca (58°19'N., 5°11'W.) and Eilean Garbh. It is the deepest and widest of the channels.

**Leopach Channel** (58°19'N., 5°10'W.), leading SE of Farhead Point, has a rock with a depth of 2.1m lying in the NW entrance of the channel.

**South Channel** (58°19'N., 5°09'W.) is reported to be the safest channel to use as the adjacent islands are easily identified. The least depth in the fairway, which is less than 150m wide, is 7.8m. Pilotage can be performed by local fishermen living in cottages on the NE shore of Leopach Channel.

**5.27 Badcall** (58°20'N., 5°09'W.), a village on the N shore of the bay, has a small pier at which local vessels berth. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 14m, mud and sand, in the middle of the bay where there is swinging room of about 0.1 mile. Vessels approaching the anchorage should pass 0.1 mile NW of Clansman Shoal (58°18'N., 5°10'W.) and NW of Sgeir an Tairbh (58°19'N., 5°09'W.). After passing through South Channel on a N course, vessels should proceed toward the anchorage with the summit of Ceannamhor (58°18'N., 5°10'W.) bearing 236° astern and tangent to the SE side of Eilean Garbh.

**Scourie Bay** (58°21'N., 5°10'W.) is entered between Rubha Shios (58°21'N., 5°11'W.), a coastal point, and Creag a' Mhail (58°22'N., 5°10'W.). Eilean a' Bhuic, an islet, lies 0.2 mile NW of Rubha Shios. The bay is open to the NW and is fronted by rocky shoals and detached below-water rocks which constrict the navigable fairway. Anchorage in the bay is not recommended.

## Sound of Handa to Loch Inchart

**5.28 Sound of Handa** (58°22'N., 5°10'W.), the passage between the mainland and Handa Island, has a least width of 0.2 mile, but the navigable channel is constricted by rocky shoals extending SE from the island. Above and below-water rocks and reefs lie in and near the fairway. Bodha Morair, the S rock in the sound, lies 0.4 mile SSE of the E extremity of Handa Island. Local knowledge is required to transit the Sound of Handa. The E side of the sound and the mainland N to Rubha Ruadh (58°25'N., 5°09'W.) is formed of dark, rugged rocks rising steeply as high hills.

Anchorage in favorable weather can be taken in Port of Tarbet (58°23'N., 5°09'W.), a small bight at the NE end of the Sound of Handa. There are depths of 18 to 26m, mud, about 275m SE of the E end of Eilean an Aigeach (58°23'N., 5°09'W.).

Vessels proceeding N through the sound enroute to the anchorage should pass E of Bodha Morair, marked by overfalls. When clear of this danger, vessels should steer NNE with the summit of Eilean a' Bhuic bearing 207° astern, which leads into Port of Tarbet.

**Handa Island** (58°23'N., 5°11'W.) lies 0.2 mile offshore and 1 mile NNE of Creag a' Mhail. The N and W sides of the island are high and steep, with a gradual sloping toward the S side. The island is a nature reserve. High cliffs of dark red and brown sandstone serve as a bird rookery. Drying rocks and foul

ground extend 0.3 mile SW of the island and are marked by breakers except during a calm sea. Tidal currents set NE and SW in the area W of Handa Island.

**5.29 Loch Laxford** (58°24'N., 5°06'W.) is entered between Rubha Ruadh (58°25'N., 5°09'W.), a low, reddish-colored point, and Ardmore Point (58°25'N., 5°07'W.), bold and brownish-colored. Several islands and islets lying off the bold, steep, indented shores of the loch diminish the width of the channel leading SE to the head of the loch. Depths in the fairway of the loch decrease from 37m in the entrance to 11m about 0.5 mile from its head, into which the River Laxford flows.

There are three mountain peaks which are useful in clear weather in determining the entrance of Loch Laxford: Ben Stack (58°20'N., 4°57'W.), with a sharp, conical peak; Ben Arkle (58°22'N., 4°54'W.), with a round-topped summit almost white in color; and Foinaven, the highest peak rising at the N end of a ridge NNE of Ben Arkle.

**Dubh Sgeirean** (58°26'N., 5°08'W.) is a group of islets and rocks lying in the approach to Loch Laxford. Bodha Druim (58°25'N., 5°08'W.), a sunken rock, with a depth of 4.8m, lies in the loch entrance. A tangent of 120° on the SW side of Eilean an Eireannaich (58°24'N., 5°05'W.), leads SW of the dangers of Ardmore Point. A chain of islets and rocks lying off the SW side of the loch are closely contained within the 50m curve.

Anchorage can be taken in depths of 11 to 13m within the entrance of Fanagmore Bay (58°24'N., 5°07'W.), and in depths of 18 to 22m, mud, within Bagh na Fionndalach Moire (58°24'N., 5°05'W.). There is anchorage on the NE side of the loch in Loch a' Chadh-fi (58°25'N., 5°04'W.), in depths of up to 18m, mud. Small craft can anchor in Weaver's Bay (58°23'N., 5°04'W.), in depths of 5 to 9m. There is good anchorage in depths of 10 to 18m in the fairway of Loch Laxford about 1 mile from its head, however NW gales create a slight swell in the loch.

**Loch Dughaill** (58°25'N., 5°06'W.), N of Ardmore Point, is open to the W and does not afford shelter or anchorage. Mariners are cautioned not to mistake this loch for Loch Laxford.

**Loch Inchart** (58°27'N., 5°05'W.) is entered about 2 miles NE of Loch Dughaill. The intervening coast is steep, rocky, and backed by ranges of hills. Sgeirean Cruaidhe (58°26'N., 5°07'W.), a group of islets and rocks, parallel this coast about 0.3 mile offshore. Although there is a deepwater passage at least 0.2 mile wide between Dubh Sgeirean and Sgeirean Cruaidhe, transit is not recommended without local knowledge.

**5.30 Eilean Dubh** (58°27'N., 5°05'W.), the W extremity of a peninsula, is also the S entrance point of Loch Inchart. Glas Leac, two rocky islets connected by a drying reef, lie 150m NW of Eilean Dubh.

**Rubha na Leacraig** (58°27'N., 5°04'W.), bold and reddish-colored, is the N entrance point of Loch Inchart. The point is also the W extremity of a rugged peninsula forming the S side

of **Loch Clash** (Loch na Claise) (58°28'N., 5°04'W.), from which a light is shown. Loch Inchard is deep and clear of dangers except for Bodha Ceann na Saile (58°27'N., 5°04'W.), a reef with a depth of 3m, which in heavy seas is visible by the attached heavy weeds. Loch Clash is easy of access and free of dangers. The shores are rugged and steep-to. A T-head, concrete pier, with a depth of 2.7m alongside, is located at the SE corner of the loch.

**5.31 Loch Bervie** (58°27'N., 5°03'W.), a shallow inlet off the N side of Loch Inchard, is entered close E of Rubha nan Eun. There is a drying bar in the loch entrance. Small vessels remain afloat at LW in the loch, which affords anchorage. A directional light leads to the head of the loch. There is a least depth of 2.7m on the directional light, which leads through the fairway to the village of Kinlochbervie. There is a width of only 20m between the shoals on each side of the loch entrance. The narrow entrance is also marked by two lighted beacons on its W side and a lighted beacon on its E side. A pier with a depth of 3.8m alongside its berths is located on the SW side of the loch.

Loch Bervie is approached from W by aligning the S extremity of Rubha nan Eun (58°27'N., 5°03'W.), 098°, with the N end of Rubha na Cloiche Lomaidh (58°27'N., 5°01'W.), a salient point. This alignment leads in the fairway N of Bogha Ceann na Saile.

Anchorage in Loch Inchard can be taken in Achriesgill Bay (58°26'N., 5°00'W.) in depths of 18 to 26m. Although good anchorage is generally not available in Loch Inchard due to constricted swinging space, the best anchorage is in mid-channel of Loch Inchard, about 0.8 mile from the head of the loch, where there are depths of 14 to 18m.

## Rubha na Leacaig to Cape Wrath

**5.32 Rubha na Leacaig** (58°27'N., 5°04'W.) to **Am Meall** (58°29'N., 5°07'W.), a peninsula, presents a stretch of coast wherein there are two bays with conspicuous, sandy beaches. Gently sloping hills back the shores of the bays, and rocky shoals lie as far as 0.3 mile offshore.

**Eilean an Roin Mor** (58°29'N., 5°08'W.) is an island marked by three high, conspicuous hummocks. Between the island and Rubha na Leacaig there are several islets and numerous above and below-water rocks. The shores NW of Loch Clash are backed by steep, high hills.

**Rubh' a Bhuachaille** (58°32'N., 5°05'W.) is a minor point at the N end of an unbroken stretch of cliffy coast. Dubh Sgeir (58°29'N., 5°08'W.), a group of rocks and rocky islets, lies 0.5 mile offshore. The sea breaks over a 2m shoal lying 150m N of the N islet of the group.

**Am Balg** (58°33'N., 5°07'W.), a detached, rocky islet rising steeply from the sea, is encircled by foul ground. This islet is a breeding place for puffins and guillemots.

**5.33 Sandwood Bay** (58°33'N., 5°05'W.), on the NE side of Rubh' a Bhuachaille, has a broad, sandy beach at the head of the bay which is very conspicuous at LW. The coast from the bay NNE to Cape Wrath consists partly of reddish, vertical cliffs indented by rugged coves. The only landing possible is in **Bay of Keisgaig** (58°35'N., 5°01'W.).

**Fishing Bank** (58°32'N., 5°22'W.) lies 10 miles WSW of Sandwood Bay and has general depths of 40 to 50m. A wreck, having a depth of 40m, lies in the S extremity of the bank.

**Cape Wrath** (58°37'N., 5°00'W.), marked by a light, is described in Sector 7. The cape, a bold headland of cliffs rises precipitously. During poor visibility, ships approaching the cape from W should not close the coast in soundings of less than 55m.

Tidal currents are shown on charts of the area.

About 7 miles NW of Cape Wrath, the currents set ENE and WSW on the flood and ebb, respectively. An eddy sets N with an ebb current along the coast S of the cape. The ENE current forms an eddy close inshore of Cape Wrath. There is turbulence off the cape where the main tidal currents and eddies meet.

## East Coast of Harris and Lewis

**5.34** The E coast of Harris and Lewis present a barren, rough and generally desolate appearance. The numerous points marking inlets lochs and bays, are not easily distinguished. There are but few prominent features. A church at the S end of Harris, the lighted tower on Scalpay (57°01'N., 6°39'W.), the light on Gob Rubh' Uisenis (57°56'N., 6°28'W.), Kebock Head (58°02'N., 6°22'W.), and Eye Peninsula, about 10 miles NNE of the head, are all salient features.

Landmarks include Beinn Mholach (58°15'N., 6°30'W.), the highest of four, distinct peaks visible from all directions and Muirneag (58°21'N., 6°18'W.), 246m high and a prominent mountain, which appears to have a flat, double peak on some bearings.

Depths are variable on the numerous banks lying in The Minch. The northbound route passes over a least charted depth of 35m in position 57°44'N., 6°18'W. There is a least depth of 30m on the recommended southbound navigational track in a position 2.5 miles E of Scalpay (57°52'N., 6°40'W.), however, detached shoals, (57°59'N., 6°22'W.), with a least charted depth of 23.5m, lie up to 2.2 miles offshore, inside the recommended track.

The coast, generally steep-to, is closely fronted by the 20m and 50m curves. The principal dangers are in detached rocks and rocky patches lying in the lochs and their approaches.

Tidal currents along the E coasts of Harris and Lewis are greatly effected by the wind, especially at neaps. The set is generally NE and SW between the Sound of Harris and East Loch Tarbert. Between Kebock Head (58°02'N., 6°22'W.) and Eye Peninsula, the tidal current sets NNE and SSW. Between the Butt of Lewis and Cape Wrath the prevailing SW wind causes an ENE current to set across the entrance of North Minch. During strong NE winds the current is reversed.

## Renish Point to Rudha Bocaig

**5.35 Renish Point** (57°44'N., 6°58'W.), the S point of Harris, appears from the offing as three rounded hummocks.

**Roineabhail** (57°46'N., 6°58'W.) is a prominent eminence N of the point which attains an elevation of 458m.

**Loch Rodel** (57°44'N., 6°58'W.), a minor inlet, sheltered by the islets of Vallay, Flodday and Corr Eilean, has a deepwater entrance, but shoals extend off both sides of the inlet. South

gales raise a heavy sea in the loch. Duncan Rock, with a depth of 0.6m, lies 0.3 mile N of Renish Point and 100m offshore. A prominent house, with a conspicuous church standing on rising ground above it, is located on the NE shore of the loch. Anchorage can be taken, during offshore winds, in depths of 18 to 22m about 0.5 mile within the loch entrance. A dark projecting point at the head of the loch, aligned 333° with Strondeval (57°45'N., 6°59'W.), leads NE of Duncan Rock.

**5.36 Loch Finsbay** (57°46'N., 6°54'W.) is entered between Finsbay Island and Rubha Quidnish (57°47'N., 6°52'W.), a rocky, steep-to point with a cave in it. The island is green-topped and steep-to SE. Eilean Quidnish is the highest and most peaked of several islets lying 0.2 mile SW of the point. Above and below-water rocks lie NE and NW of Finsbay Island.

**Eilean Druim an Tolla** (57°46'N., 6°54'W.) lies on the outer edge of a rocky, drying reef. Entrance to the loch is effected by passing close to Eilean Quidnish, avoiding the rocks off Finsbay Island. Loch Finsbay is the only loch along the E coast of Harris which is considered safe to enter without local knowledge, although it is difficult to distinguish in misty weather. A hill, 61m high, with a sheer face E, bearing 305° and open N of Eilean Druim an Tolla, leads into the loch as far as that islet through an entrance channel at least 0.1 mile wide. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 15m, in mid-channel NE of Eilean Druim an Tolla, or 0.1 mile E of that islet. Small vessels find sheltered anchorage in a depth of 5m, mud, about 0.1 mile NNW of the promontory at the head of the loch.

**Loch Flodabay** (57°47'N., 6°52'W.), an open bight encumbered with sunken rocks, is entered between Rubha Quidnish and Aird Mhanais (57°47'N., 6°51'W.), a promontory having a bare, rocky point with a cliffy, SW side. Above and below-water rocks lie as far as 0.3 mile E of the point. Anchorage sheltered from W gales, however, exposed to NE and E winds can be taken in the entrance to the loch 0.5 mile NE of the extremity of Rubha Quidnish in a depth of 49m.

A submarine cable, which crosses Little Minch to Waternish Peninsula, is landed at Loch Gheocrab, lying N of Aird Mhanais.

**Loch Stockinish** (57°49'N., 6°50'W.) is entered between Aird Mhor (57°48'N., 6°51'W.) and Stockinish Island lying 0.5 mile E. Caolas Beag, the preferred channel, with a depth of 3.7m and a width of 27m, leads along the E side of the island. Caolas Beag can be entered by steering a course of 339° for the E end of Stockinish Island. Anchorage can be taken in depths of 16 to 22m in mid-channel off Hard Rock. The anchorage is reached by keeping close to the SW side of Caolas Beag and on leaving the channel steer a course to pass 0.1 mile E of Am Maoladh, keeping the channel open astern. The sheltered inner part of the loch has a depth of 22m, mud.

Am Maoladh, a peninsula, is located midway along the W side of the loch. Hard Rock, a drying rock, lies 0.8 mile NNW of Am Maoladh.

**5.37 Loch Grosebay** (57°49'N., 6°46'W.) is entered between Rubha Chluar (57°48'N., 6°48'W.) and the S end of Reibinish, a peninsula 1.5 miles NE. Rubha Chluar, a rugged point, is recognized from NE by a deep, dark chasm near its summit. Cairam, an islet, lies 0.7 mile NNE of Rubha Chluar.

Glas Sgeir, a smaller islet, lies close NW of Cairam. Sgeir a' Chais (57°50'N., 6°47'W.), a group of above water rocks, lies 0.2 mile from the head of the loch. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 9m, mud, above Sgeir a' Chais by passing about 0.3 mile NW of Glas Sgeir and then shaping a course to pass close SW of Sgeir a' Chais.

**Loch na H-Uamha** (57°49'N., 6°45'W.) lies adjacent to Reibinish and is unsafe for anchorage. Loch Scadabay, a constricted inlet entered about 0.4 mile NW of the entrance to Loch na H-Uamha, affords anchorage in a depth of 2.1m to small vessels.

## East Loch Tarbert—Outer Part

**5.38 East Loch Tarbert** (57°54'N., 6°48'W.) is entered between Rubha Bhocaig (57°50'N., 6°44'W.), the E extremity of Reibinish, and Rubha Crago (57°53'N., 6°40'W.). The loch contains numerous rocks throughout its length, but transit can be accomplished during daylight hours. Terrain adjacent to the loch is rocky, desolate and without vegetation. Bare hills rise to mountains in the interior. Scalpay, an island, along with numerous islets and rocks, lie in the entrance of the loch. Two navigable channels lead into the loch N and SW of Scalpay.

**Sound of Scalpay** (57°52'N., 6°41'W.), with depths of 15 to 29m, is free of dangers in the fairway and has a navigable width of about 100m. A care ferry crosses the sound near its mid-point. A submarine power cable, laid between Carnach and a small bay 0.3 mile SSE, is marked at its landing places by beacons. A pipeline is laid across the sound in a S direction from 57°53'N., 6°42'W.

A bridge, with a vertical clearance of 20m, crosses the sound.

Elliot Rock, 0.2 mile SSW of Rubha Crago, consists of three heads, the center having a swept depth of 2m and the NE a swept depth of 3.8m. A 4m rocky patch lies between Elliot Rock and Scalpay. The N and S sides of the sound are generally steep-to W of Elliot Rock.

**5.39 Braigh Mor** (57°51'N., 6°43'W.), the deepwater channel SW of Scalpay, has an uneven, muddy bottom interspersed with rocks. Rubha Bhocaig (57°50'N., 6°44'W.), the SW entrance point of the channel, is difficult to identify. Bogha Bhocaig (57°50'N., 6°43'W.), above and below-water rocks, lie 0.4 mile ESE of the point. The highest peak of Scotasay (57°53'N., 6°45'W.), bearing 339° and open E of The Gloraigs (57°51'N., 6°44'W.), leads 0.3 mile E of Bogha Bokaig.

The Gloraigs, a group of islets and rocks, lies as far as 0.8 mile off the SW shore of the loch and within 0.2 mile of the entrance fairway. Eilean na Sgaite (57°50'N., 6°44'W.) is the S islet of the group, with Dun Corr Mor (57°51'N., 6°44'W.), a peaked islet, lying less than 0.3 mile W of the fairway.

A light is shown from the N side of Dun Corr Mor. The alignment of the SW coast of Sgeir Ghlas on a bearing of 153° with Dun Corr Mor Light clears 0.1 mile ENE of Little Whiting Rock. The white sector, 319°-329°, of Sgeir Ghlas Light leads into Braigh Mor, but includes within the sector, three detached shoals, the least depth being 3.8m lying 0.3 mile E of Dun Corr Mor Light.



EILEAN GLAS LIGHT

**Scalpay** (57°52'N., 6°40'W.), a large island lying in the entrance of East Loch Tarbert, rises to Beinn Scoravick near its E end. Meall Challibost (57°51'N., 6°40'W.), a headland, is the S extremity of the island.

**Eilean Glas** (57°51'N., 6°38'W.), a small, steep-to rocky peninsula, forms the SE end of Scalpay. A light is shown from a conspicuous tower standing on the summit of Eilean Glas. A racon is located at the light.

**Sgeir Inoe** (57°50'N., 6°33'W.), drying 2.4m, lies 3 miles ESE of Eilean Glas. A rock, awash, lies on a narrow bank, with a least depth of 0.3m, extending 0.3 mile SW of the drying rock. The alignment, 034°, of Rubh' Uisenis with Srianach, 4.5 miles NE, clears NW of Sgeir Inoe.

Between Eilean Glas, Sgeir Inoe and the Shiant Islands (57°54'N., 6°23'W.) the tidal currents usually set ENE and SW. At neaps the current begins to set NNE, gradually turning to an E set over a period of 8 hours 30 minutes.

There are several excellent anchorages inshore of The Gloraigs available to small vessels with local knowledge. Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 24m in South Harbor (57°52'N., 6°42'W.), about 0.2 mile N and E of Hamarsay (57°51'N., 6°42'W.).

### East Loch Tarbert—Inner Part

**5.40 Scotasay** (57°53'N., 6°45'W.), an island covered with heather, lies in the central part of East Loch Tarbert. The approach channels through Braigh Mor and Sound of Scalpay are joined N of Scotasay. An unencumbered passage, with a least depth of 16.5m in the fairway, separates Scotasay from Stiughay (57°52'N., 6°43'W.).

**Sgeir Ghlas** (57°52'N., 6°45'W.), an islet lying E of the fairway, is steep-to on its W side and is marked by a lighted tower. Many of the numerous dangers encumbering the inner part of the loch are covered by light sectors of Sgeir Ghlas Light.

The fairway through Braigh Mor leads W of Sgeir Braigh Mor (57°51'N., 6°44'W.) and Sgeir Ghlas. Tidal currents set in

and out through Braigh Mor, round Scalpay and the adjacent islands and set in and out of the Sound of Scalpay. Northwest of Scotasay there are no currents.

**North Harbor** (57°53'N., 6°42'W.), a bight at the NW end of Scalpay, is a small fishing harbor with depths of 1.8 to 5.5m. Scalpay House (57°52'N., 6°42'W.), with two chimneys, is a conspicuous landmark at the head of the bight. A 54m long pier at the SE corner of the harbor, has a depth of 1m alongside at its end. A light is shown from the pierhead. Two beacons mark rocks lying off the pier.

**Loch Ceann Dibig** (57°53'N., 6°48'W.), a bay indenting the coast W of Scotasay, is entered between Eilean Arderanish (57°52'N., 6°47'W.) and Aird Diraclett (57°53'N., 6°47'W.), a headland. Numerous drying rocks lie in and near the loch which is entered from Braigh Mor by passing 0.1 mile N of Eilean Arderanish and then keeping its N end aligned astern, 096°, with the S end of Scotasay. Anchorage can be taken in Loch Ceann Dibig in a depth of 15m, mud, about 0.3 mile from the head of the loch.

**5.41 Craobhag** (57°54'N., 6°48'W.) is a conspicuous, vertical cliff located at the S entrance of the harbor of East Loch Tarbert. A beacon stands on the N end of the cliff. Rubha Dubh, a steep-to promontory about 1 mile ENE of Craobhag, forms the N side of the harbor entrance. Oban Rocks, drying, lies 0.2 mile SE of Rubha Dubh. The Free Church (57°54'N., 6°48'W.), bearing 289° and open S of Rubha Dubh, leads close S of the rocks. There is a T-head pier located 150m W of the church. A light is shown from the head of the pier. There are small piers with a depth of 3m alongside at HW at Tarbert (57°54'N., 6°49'W.), a village. Anchorage is preferred in mid-channel at the head of the loch between Craobhag and Rubha Dubh in a depth of 16m, mud.

### Loch Seaforth

**5.42 Loch Seaforth** (57°54'N., 6°40'W.), entered between Rubha Crago (57°53'N., 6°40'W.) and Aird a' Bhaigh



(57°55'N., 6°37'W.), a headland, is the longest loch in the Outer Hebrides and partly divides Harris from Lewis. The loch entrance is an open bay encumbered with several above and below-water rocks. The desolate, rocky coast extending NE from Rubha Crago is indented by several lochs, with conspicuous mountain ranges rising in the interior. Toddun (57°56'N., 6°44'W.), a conical mountain, is prominent from the E.

Anchorage can be obtained in the entrance with Rubha Bridog, bearing 345°, distant 1.2 miles, in a depth of 28m and with the same point, bearing 334°, distant 0.5 mile, in a depth of 29m. Both positions are sheltered from N and SW winds with good holding ground, in soft mud and broken shell.

**5.43 Rubha Bridog** (57°55'N., 6°39'W.), the E entrance point of the loch proper, rises to a steep hill and appears as a cliff with a bare point of rock extending from it. Between Rubha Bridog and **Ard Caol** (57°55'N., 6°41'W.), at the W entrance, the loch is 0.5 mile in width, but becomes constricted within 0.2 mile. High, sheer cliffs, steep-to, form the sides of the loch. The mountains backing the shores of the loch cause sudden, often violent wind squalls.

**Loch Trollamarig** (57°55'N., 6°42'W.), entered S of Ard Caol, is open and affords no shelter. There are islets, some steep-to and others fringed by drying rocks, lying in the entrance of the loch and E to Rubha Bridog.

**Seaforth Island** (58°00'N., 6°44'W.) lies in the fairway of Loch Seaforth, with a clear channel E and W of the island. The loch proper is deep and free of dangers as far as the island. The channel E of the island has a least depth of 10.2m, the channel W of the island, 5.9m.

**5.44 Loch Maarui** (57°57'N., 6°44'W.), on the W side of Loch Seaforth, is entered between Maarui Island, lying close offshore, and a black, cliffy point forming the N entrance of the loch. A rock lies about 100m SE of the island. There are least depths of 12.8 in the loch. Landmarks include Aline Lodge (58°00'N., 6°45'W.), and its adjacent buildings; and Kenmore (57°58'N., 6°42'W.), a point topped by an isolated hill, which is very conspicuous.

Upper Loch Seaforth, the shoal head of the loch, is very constricted. Tidal currents are strong in the narrows leading to the upper loch, although they are weak in the loch proper.

Anchorage can be taken about 0.1 mile off the S shore of Loch Maarui, just within the entrance. Small vessels can anchor in depths of up to 15m, S of Maarui Island. A sheltered basin inside Maarui Point, with a depth of 7m, mud, affords mooring anchorage. Anchorage can be taken in depths of 13 to 18m between Seaforth Island and Aline Lodge. Vessels anchoring in Loch Seaforth should pass 0.2 mile E of Sgeir an Daimh, an above-water rock lying almost 1 mile NNE of Rubha Crago, and pass W of Sgeir Hal. A mid-channel course leads through the loch proper.

## Loch Claidh to Loch Shell—Shiant Islands

**5.45 Loch Claidh** (57°55'N., 6°36'W.), entered between Aird a Bhaigh and Rubha Bhalamuis Bhig (57°55'N., 6°34'W.), is important only as a small vessel anchorage. The shores of the loch are unindented, steep-to, and backed by hills

becoming mountainous near the head. A steep point, less than 0.8 mile within the entrance, is prominent, as is a high cliff rising at the SW head of the loch. Drying rocks lie as far as 0.5 mile WNW of Rubha Bhalamuis Bhig. Eilean Hingarstay (57°56'N., 6°36'W.), an islet, lies 1.2 miles within the E entrance point.

**Pender Rock** (57°55'N., 6°36'W.) is the outermost of three above and below-water rocks. Tidal currents raise turbulent seas, dangerous to small vessels, in the vicinity of the rock.

Anchorage can be taken in the middle of Tob Smuaisibhig (57°57'N., 6°37'W.), an inlet indenting the NE shore of the loch, in a depth of 13m, shell, clay and stones. South gales raise a sea in the inlet.

**5.46 Loch Bhrollum** (57°56'N., 6°32'W.) is entered between Rubh' a' Bhaird (57°55'N., 6°32'W.), a low, sloping point, and Rubha Bhrollum (57°56'N., 6°31'W.), a vertical cliff. Drying rocks lie as far as 0.1 mile off the entrance point and cliff. Anchorage may be obtained in the N part of the loch, above Meall Mor, 1 mile NW of Rubha Bhrollum, in depths of 5 to 20m, clay. Both shores are clear of dangers in this area, however, the loch is only 0.1 mile wide and open S.

**Gob Rubh' Uisenis** (57°56'N., 6°28'W.), a smooth, sloping headland terminating in a rocky point, is in sharp contrast with the coast extending N. A deep, dark fissure near Gob Rubh' Uisenis is prominent when viewed from the NE. The headland and light tower standing on the point are reported to be good radar targets at a distance of 9 miles.

**Shiant Islands** (57°54'N., 6°22'W.) consist of two islands and several islets and rocks. Sheep are grazed on the islands, but there are no permanent residents. Sound of Shiant (57°55'N., 6°27'W.), the passage separating the islands from the coast NW, has a least depth of 23.5m, with an uneven bottom.

**5.47 Eilean an Tighe** (57°53'N., 6°21'W.), the S part of the largest island of the group, is connected by a low, narrow neck of gravel with Garbh Eilean (57°54'N., 6°21'W.), the highest, N part of the island. Eilean an Tighe has precipitous cliffs on its E side. A chain of above-water detached islets and rocks extends 1.2 miles W from the NW end of Garbh Eilean.

**Eilean Mhuire** (57°54'N., 6°20'W.) is an islet terminating S in an above-water rock. Drying reef flats extend 0.2 mile S and W of the islet, and shoals lie SE as far as 1.5 miles.

**Shiant South Rock** (57°51'N., 6°25'W.) is steep-to with a depth of 5m.

**Shiant East Bank** (57°54'N., 6°07'W.), an extensive fishing ground, has a least depth of 20.4m, lying 11 miles NW of Rubha Reidh.

Between Gob Rubh' Uisenis and the Shiant Islands, the tidal current sets NE and SW. Heavy overfalls occur NE of the banks in the vicinity of the Shiant Islands and Sound of Shiant, where strong NE winds and tidal currents provide a dangerous situation for small vessels. Northeasterly weather conditions cause the normal SW current to have a S set. The Shiant Islands, lying across the direction of the tidal currents, cause eddies to form. East of the islands the tidal currents set S, turning W and WSW, and joining the main current through Little Minch after clearing the islands. Heavy overfalls occur 1 mile SE of the S islands during the E and ENE tidal current,

especially during spring tides. South and SW winds raise the highest tides in Little Minch. Generally, in moderate weather, if the flood tide is higher than normal, a S or SW gale can be expected. Northeast gales bring the heaviest swell, but SW gales raise a rough sea.

Anchorage can temporarily be taken during the summer in a depth of 16m, hard sand, between the two Shiant Islands, with the gravel neck joining the islands bearing 250°, distant 0.2 mile. This berth is open to SE and SW winds, with SW gales raising a heavy swell.

## Loch Shell to Loch Erisort

**5.48 Rubha Ailltenish** (57°59'N., 6°27'W.) is the S entrance point of Loch Shell. The coast S is fronted by high, steep cliffs and the point is nearly joined SSE at LW to Sgeir Ailltenish, a low islet that is rarely submerged.

**Srianach** (58°00'N., 6°23'W.), a headland, marks the N entrance of the loch which has depths of 20 to 27m in the principal fairway. Srianach is steep-to, rugged and precipitous, with a sheer face W. The S shore of Loch Shell is high and steep and the N side is indented by Tob Lemreway (58°01'N., 6°26'W.) and Tob Eishken (58°01'N., 6°31'W.). Eilean Iubhard (58°00'N., 6°26'W.), a high, steep-to island, lies in the loch entrance.

**5.49 Caolas a Ibath** (58°00'N., 6°25'W.) is the passage N and NE of Eilean Iubhard. The W entrance is constricted and rock-encumbered. Sgeir Fhraoich (58°00'N., 6°26'W.), a rock, lies in the middle of this entrance. Rubha Buidhe (58°00'N., 6°27'W.) is a promontory with slopes falling to the water's edge.

Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 11m, about 1.5 miles NW of Srianach, where a bight allows 0.1 mile of swinging room. Larger vessels can anchor close E of Sgeir Fhraoich in a depth of 20m, stiff mud. West gales cause violent squalls at this anchorage. The preferred anchorage, sheltered from all gales, lies close within the entrance of Tob Eishken in a depth of 33m, stiff mud, with the lodge at the head of the inlet bearing 337°, distant 0.7 mile. Anchorage can also be taken in a depth of 9m, about 0.5 mile from the head of Loch Shell.

**Gob na Milaid** (58°01'N., 6°22'W.), located 1.2 miles NNE of Srianach, is the S extremity of Kebock Head. A light is shown from a white tower on Gob na Milaid and a waterfall on a cliff nearby is conspicuous.

**Kebock Head** (58°02'N., 6°22'W.) is the N end of a bold headland formed of high, vertical cliffs ending at Creag Mor (58°02'N., 6°22'W.). A drying rock lies close N of the head.

**5.50 Loch Odhairn** (58°03'N., 6°23'W.) is deep and free of dangers in mid-channel. On a NE approach, the loch is identifiable by the abrupt change in the lay of the land at Creag Mor. Within the entrance, the terrain forming the sides of the loch is bold and steep, sloping gradually as the head is approached. Cottages stand amidst cultivated land at Gravir (58°03'N., 6°26'W.), a village at the head of the loch. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 24m, mud, in the middle of the loch. Small vessels can find sheltered anchorage in depths of up to 9m abeam a conspicuous ravine. Squalls are prevalent during SW gales.

**Rubha Stanngraidh** (58°07'N., 6°24'W.), a coastal point terminating in a cliffy hillock, rises inland to a high, double-peaked hill. The coast from Loch Odhairn to Rubha Stanngraidh is high and steep-to. Several islets and small islands fringe the coast in the vicinity of Rubha Stanngraidh. Included are Eilean Thoraidh (58°06'N., 6°22'W.) and Eilean Rosaidh, lying 0.2 mile N, with a steep cliff along its E side. Owen Shoal, with a least depth of 6.8m, lies ENE of Eilean Rosaidh.

## Loch Erisort to Stornoway Harbor

**5.51 Loch Erisort** (58°07'N., 6°24'W.) is entered between Rubha Stanngraidh and Raerinish Point (58°08'N., 6°22'W.). Stanngraidh, a steep-to islet, lies close N of Rubha Stanngraidh to which it is connected by a drying reef. The E side of the headland is broken, cliffy, cavernous and steep-to. Braigh an Stac, the SE extremity of the headland, consists of a vertical cliff and high mound. Stac, a flat-topped islet, lies close S. A knoll of bare rock rising 0.2 mile NW of Stac is conspicuous on a SE approach. A shoal, The Carranoch, with a depth of 29.5m, lies approximately 1 mile E of Stac.

**Tabhaidh Mhor** (58°07'N., 6°23'W.), an island with sloping banks and low cliffs, lies in the entrance of Loch Erisort. The island is steep-to except on its S side. A drying rock lies 150m S, and Tabhaidh Bheag, a rock steep-to on its N side, lies close W of Tabhaidh Mhor. A light is shown from the N side of Tabhaidh Bheag. The entrance channels N and S of Tabhaidh Mhor, leading into Loch Erisort, are about 0.5 mile in width, unencumbered and deep as far as Bones Rock (58°07'N., 6°24'W.), with a depth of 4.1m lying in the fairway N of Rubha Stanngraidh. The loch W of Bones Rock becomes constricted and encumbered with rocks that are visible at LW.

**Caution.**—A rock, with a depth of 5m, has been reported (1996) to lie about 0.4 mile NE of Tabhaidh Mhor.

**Eilean Chaluim Chille** (58°06'N., 6°26'W.) is an island joined to the S side of the loch by a drying reef.

A mid-channel course can be steered through Loch Erisort in a depth of 10m until near the head of the loch where the shores close in and the depths decrease. Local knowledge is necessary.

**5.52 Tob Cromore** (58°06'N., 6°25'W.), a basin in a cove, has depths of 1.5 to 5m, clay, and is an excellent boat harbor. Loch Leurboist (58°08'N., 6°25'W.) is a N branch of Loch Erisort. Crossboist Church, within Loch Leurboist, is prominent.

Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 16m, mud, in Cromore Anchorage, adjacent to Tob Cromore and about 275m off the S shore. There is anchorage in depths of 13 to 18m, about 3 miles WSW of Eilean Chaluim Chille. Loch Leurboist affords tenable anchorage in a depth of 13m, mud, about 0.7 mile inside the entrance and opposite Crossboist Church. Cromore Anchorage can be approached by passing between Stanngraidh and Bones Rock, or by-passing N of Tabhaidh Mhor and S of Tannaraidh, a steep-to, double-peaked island. The SW side of Tannaraidh, aligned 312° with Crossboist Church (58°08'N., 6°25'W.) leads close SW of Bones Rock, and course can then be changed SW for the village of Cromore.

Loch Leurbost is entered by passing W of Tannaraidh (58°07'N., 6°25'W.). **Loch Grimshader** (58°09'N., 6°22'W.), a narrow inlet, is entered close N of Aird Raerinish (58°08'N., 6°22'W.), the blunt peninsula backing the point. The S entrance point of the loch is a cliffy head. An unusual rock, which resembles a lion's head, appears on the edge of a cliff at the S side of the entrance. The loch has a least depth of 2.2m in the fairway. Foul ground extends off the N entrance point and a drying rock lies in the fairway. An overhead cable with a vertical clearance of 12m, crosses the channel between the head of Loch Grimshader and Loch Beag.

**Rubha Hurnavay** (58°09'N., 6°22'W.) and **Arnish Point** (58°11'N., 6°22'W.) are two points located along a coast that is precipitous and steep-to. Prominent hills rise inland. A conspicuous stone beacon stands atop a hill (58°11'N., 6°23'W.) SW of Arnish Point. Anchorage can be taken in depths of up to 13m, about 0.2 mile from the head of the loch.

## Stornoway Harbor and Approaches

**5.53** Stornoway is approached from SE between Rubha Hurnavay and Chicken Head (58°11'N., 6°15'W.), a steep-to point at the S extremity of Eye Peninsula (58°13'N., 6°11'W.). The peninsula is connected at its W end to Lewis by a low isthmus. The low peninsula and isthmus appear as an island from the offing. Chicken Rock, a drying rock, marked by a beacon, lies 0.3 mile SW of Chicken Head.

Stornoway is the chief town of the Outer Hebrides. Its buildings SW of Arnish Point (58°11'N., 6°22'W.) are the most conspicuous objects when approaching the harbor.

**Branahuie Bay** (58°12'N., 6°18'W.), open S, recedes 1.5 miles between Chicken Head and Holm Point (58°11'N., 6°21'W.). The narrow, gravel isthmus connecting Eye Peninsula with Lewis is located at the head of the bay. Depths of 27m and greater, in the bay entrance, diminish to its head. Anchorage is considered unsafe in the bay. A military fuel pier, which can accommodate vessels with a maximum draft of 7m, extends from Gob Shilldinish, on the W side of the bay.

**Holm Island** (58°11'N., 6°20'W.), connected to the shore by a drying reef, lies 0.5 mile E of Holm Point. Eilean nan Uan lies on the outer edge of foul ground 1 mile E of Holm Point.

**5.54 Stornoway Harbor** (58°11'N., 6°22'W.) ([World Port Index No. 33020](#)) is entered between Arnish Point (58°11'N., 6°22'W.) and Holm Point (58°11'N., 6°21'W.). The depths in the harbor and its convenient location, are assets making the harbor the most important in The Hebrides. Although the holding ground in the inner part of the harbor is indifferent, vessels frequently seek shelter in the harbor from W gales. The port is also a supply center for oil exploration.

**Tides—Currents.**—Tides rise about 4.8m at springs and 3.7m at neaps.

**Depths—Limitations.**—There is a least depth of 14.6m in the harbor entrance, with depths decreasing to less than 3.7m near the head of the harbor. The fairway leading into the harbor and to an anchorage SW of Eilean na Gobhail (58°12'N., 6°23'W.) has a least depth of 7.9m.

No. 1 Pier has a berth on its W side 128m long, with a ramp at the inshore end providing ro-ro facilities. There are depths of 4.5 to 6.9m alongside the berth. The E side of No. 1 Pier has

130m of berthage with depths of 7.3m at its outer end shoaling to 1m.

No. 2 Pier has a depth of 5.2m at its outer end, and about 70m of berthage on each side with depths shoaling to 1m. Depths are maintained by dredging.

Esplanade Quay, N of the root of No. 1 Pier, is 122m long with depths of 3.7 to 4.9m alongside.

North Beach Quay extends 173m from the N end of Esplanade Quay, and has depths of 3 to 4m alongside.

Cromwell Street Quay extends 260m NNE from the E end of North Beach Quay, and has depths of 2.7m at its S end shoaling to 1m at its N end.

Vessels of up to 13,250 grt, 136m in length, and 5.8m draft have been accommodated alongside. Vessels of up to 20,150 grt and 6m draft have anchored in the bay.

**Aspect.**—Range lights, in line bearing 325°, are shown from the SW side of the ramp at the root of No. 1 Pier.

The square stone turreted War Memorial on the summit of Cnoc nan Uan 2 miles NNW of Arnish Point is conspicuous. Three chimneys at the power station on Inaclete Point are conspicuous. Lewis Castle College at the head of the harbor is a gothic structure with three towers. Situated on rising ground the college is visible over the town from seaward and is conspicuous. High Martins Church Spire, 0.3 mile SE of Lewis Castle College, is prominent.

**Inaclete Point** (58°12'N., 6°22'W.), a promontory, is located midway along the NE side of the harbor. Foul ground and drying reefs fringe the shores SE and NW of the point.

**Eilean na Gobhail** (58°12'N., 6°23'W.), an island lying on a reef, is joined to Inaclete Point by a causeway and to the shore N by a drying gravel spit. A lighted beacon marks the SE end of Inaclete Point.

**Mol Sandwick** (58°12'N., 6°22'W.) is a shallow bay affording no anchorage.

**Pilotage.**—Pilotage is not compulsory, but is available 24 hours on request to the harbormaster. If requesting a pilot, send ETA 24 hours in advance with confirmation 2 hours in advance. The pilot boards off Arnish Point Light.

**5.55 Arnish Point** (58°11'N., 6°22'W.) is marked by a lighted, white tower. A conspicuous water tower stands about 0.6 mile WSW of the point.

Reef Rock, a drying reef extending 0.1 mile N of Arnish Point, is marked by a lighted buoy moored close E of its extremity. Drying rocks, marked close N by a beacon, extend almost 0.1 mile N of the point.

**Glumaig Harbor** (58°11'N., 6°23'W.), indenting the shore W of the Arnish Peninsula, has depths exceeding 9m and is the quarantine anchorage. The bold coast extending from the W entrance of the harbor to the head of Stornoway Harbor is fringed by rocky, partly drying foul ground. There is an oil rig fabrication base at the S end of Glumaig Harbor. The complex includes two tidal docks and a number of conspicuous buildings.

**Anchorage.**—Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 14m, midway between Eilean na Gobhail and a salient point about 0.4 mile SSW. Glumaig Harbor affords good anchorage in a depth of 12m, with the factory at the head of the harbor bearing 172° and Seid Rocks bearing 055°.

**Caution.**—Care should be taken to avoid the wrecks that are charted in Glumaig Harbor if the vessel intends to anchor in this area.

Seiches, attaining heights of 0.5m and occurring when a low pressure area passes through the harbor, may last for 20 to 25 minutes.

### Stornoway Harbor to Butt of Lewis

**5.56 Rubha na Strianaich** (58°11'N., 6°13'W.) is the SE point of Eye Peninsula. The coast between Chicken Head and the point is rocky, has cliffs and is generally steep-to. A conspicuous rock, above water, lies offshore, midway along this stretch of coast.

**Bayble Bay** (58°12'N., 6°12'W.) affords protection from W winds. A concrete pier at the head of this small, open bight has a depth of 3.7m alongside its head at HW. Fishing vessels frequently use the pier.

**Tiumpán Head** (58°16'N., 6°08'W.), the steep-to NE extremity of Eye Peninsula, rises to a prominent hill, easily visible from S or SW, but difficult to distinguish from E because of the higher terrain in the interior. A light is shown from a white tower standing on the head.

**Broad Bay** (58°17'N., 6°11'W.) is entered between Tiumpán Head and Tolsta Head (58°21'N., 6°10'W.). The bay is open to E and NE winds, which raise a heavy sea. Depths of 24 to 29m in the entrance decrease to less than 9m, about 1.5 miles from the head of the bay.

**McIver Rock** (58°15'N., 6°15'W.), steep-to and drying, lies in the middle of the bay. A ridge, with a least depth of 9.8m,

extends about 275m N from the rock. Tolsta Head, high, conspicuous and steep-to, has a sheer cliffy face on its E side. **Creag Fhraoch** (58°18'N., 6°15'W.), a cliff, is a salient feature.

**Tides—Currents.**—The currents off the bay entrance and N along the coast set generally N and S. Part of the S current from Butt of Lewis sets along the E side of Eye Peninsula. Another part, inshore, sets S along the coast, dividing at Creag Fhraoch, one part skirting the shores of Broad Bay, the other setting toward Tiumpán Head and joining the current along the Eye Peninsula. With strong N winds, the S currents have a greater velocity and run longer than in fair weather, while strong S winds have an opposite effect.

**Anchorage.**—Anchorage can be taken 1 mile SW of McIver Rock, in a depth of 11m, or 1 mile NE of the rock, in a depth of 20m. Shelter can be obtained 0.4 mile offshore in the bight SE of the rock, in a depth of 13m.

**Caution.**—With NE and prolonged E winds, a heavy sea soon develops in the bay.

**5.57 Rubh' an t Seileir** (58°25'N., 6°10'W.) is a point located at the entrance of a broad, open bight. The SW side of this bight contains a large sandbank which is a good landmark in thick weather. Sloping banks and sheer cliffs with caves form the N side of the bight.

**Cellar Head** (58°26'N., 6°10'W.) consists of sheer cliffs and several sloping points backed by high terrain. The coast N to **Meall Geal** (58°28'N., 6°11'W.) is formed by gravel bays separated by rocky points backed by low cliffs. Meall Geal terminates N in a peculiar peak which falls as a sheer cliff on its N side and slopes SE to a point.



TIUMPAN HEAD LIGHT



**Berie** (58°30'N., 6°13'W.) is the N entrance point of a sandy cove, free of dangers, which contains a drying boat harbor. Fishing vessels enter the harbor after half flood. Port of Ness, a fishing hamlet, is located at the boat harbor.

**Port Sto** (58°31'N., 6°15'W.), a sandy cove with a drying head, is also a fishing harbor.

**Butt of Lewis** (58°31'N., 6°15'W.) is described in Sector 6.

The Minch is a general name given to the channels separating the Outer and Inner Hebrides from the Scottish mainland. Little Minch is the water area bound N by an imaginary line extending from Lewis, S through the Shiant Islands to the N extremity of Skye.

The S limits lie between Usinish and Neist Point. North Minch, with a least width of 20 miles, extends NE of Little Minch and between Lewis and the mainland of Scotland.